

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee, Subcommittee #1

Meeting of Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Bangs Community Center, Lower Meeting Room

Attendance: Nonny Burack, Adrienne Terrizzi, Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter, Rob Crowner (arrived 4:00). Guests: Sandra Burgess.

1. Call to order:

2. Update with Kris Pacunas:

3. Review data collection:

4. Update with Sandra Burgess: The subcommittee discusses electronic voting issues with Town Clerk Sandra Burgess...

Sandra states that she has no position on electronic voting at this point. She does not know whether it would save her staff time or not. The Town Clerk's office would still have to enter records of votes in the "Big Book" because digital records are not yet considered permanent; however, she anticipates being able to automate some procedures.

In order to account for and collect all clickers at the end of every session, the check-in staff employed by the Town Clerk would probably have to stay all evening instead of leaving at 9:00 or 9:30pm.

Tally votes must be associated with a name and a date, which is why so much paper is used. Switching to a single-sheet-per-TM system raises concerns and probably would require the retention of the second checker in order to handle replacement tally cards. A scenario in which more than six tally votes occur in a single session would necessitate a backup plan, such as an entire additional set of tally cards.

Sandra requests that TMCC keep her updated on the issues and/or systems being considered. Specifically, the areas of impact on her staff include: the preparation that would be required, the reporting capabilities of the system, and procedures for keeping track of clickers.

In response to the observation of occasional discrepancies between the way a vote is called and the way it is later recorded by the Town Clerk's office, Sandra states that she is aware that tellers sometimes miscount. The Moderator has ruled that his call will stand even if it is later found to have been based on a miscount. A policy of automatic recount when the votes are within a certain percentage is in place.

5. Adjournment: Following discussion of the usefulness the process of investigating Town Meeting voting has been, the meeting ends at 4:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents provided:

1. agenda
2. spreadsheet with results of voting survey performed by Mary Streeter and Adrienne Terrizzi